

ST. HELENS LAID WASTE BY FLAMES

Nearly the entire section of the town destroyed early yesterday morning, with great loss.

Whole block is burned and damage to property is more than \$40,000.

STARTED IN TAYLOR HOTEL

North Part of Town, Where Court House is Located, Is Saved by Hard Work of Firemen.

Most of the business portion of St. Helens, county seat of Columbia county, was wiped out by fire early yesterday morning, causing a loss of over \$40,000. The fire was discovered in the old Taylor hotel, corner of Cowitz and Strand streets, about 3 a. m., and an alarm rung. The north part of the town, including the county court house, was saved, thanks to a gravity water system and pumping works which the city has.

The entire block of buildings burned is wood, and as the fire started in the north end of the block, with a north wind blowing, it soon became apparent that it was useless to attempt to save any portion in the direct line of the fire. The supply of water was, of course, inadequate for effective work, but by directing it to buildings not in line with the blaze a great deal of property was saved from destruction.

The fire spread from the Taylor hotel, including Dr. Ross' pharmacy, to the general merchandise store and post-office of M. C. Gray, which is a total loss, amounting to about \$4500. There is no insurance, and its wipes out the earnings of years by hard work and close attention to business on the part of Mr. Gray and his wife.

Then the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dolman was totally destroyed. Senator George W. McBride and wife were at home here, and the senator lost, besides his personal apparel, a library that had belonged to his father and by which he set great store. Senator McBride, owing to the fact that he had been suffering from sickness, had barely time to escape from the burning building.

Next in line was the Oriental hotel, a large three-story structure, which furnished an immense amount of fuel for the flames. The law office of W. H. Powell and the abstract office of E. E. Quick soon followed.

Mr. Powell had recently purchased the extensive law library of Judge F. Moore, and these and many other valuable law books were destroyed, totaling probably \$1000. Mr. Quick had the only set of abstracts in Columbia county, valued at at least \$6000, and though they were inside a safe, it is feared they are ruined. He has a partner, Mr. Holton, who is in the employ of Prater, Hegele & Co., of Portland.

South of this, until the sawmill was reached, the property was of comparatively small value, including a number of large but dilapidated buildings, and the old school house intended for use as a warehouse by Captain Good of the steamer America. The next thing of importance was the sawmill of Muckle Bros., and this, including the dock, is a total loss. The general merchandise store of Hart & Muckle and their warehouse stood on a portion of the docks, and this was saved in a most remarkable manner by the presence of the steamer America, which enabled the men to keep a small stream playing on the side of the buildings most exposed to the blaze. In all the burnt district the store and warehouse stand alone. Three residences and a building used for a blacksmith shop and lodge hall constitute the remainder of the losses.

Had it not been for the earnest efforts of the citizens, the block in which the court house is located would also have been destroyed. If this had been the case, with the destruction of Mr. Quick's abstract books, the loss to the property-owners would have been irreparable, and the blame would properly have been placed upon the officials who for years, in spite of the repeated findings of grand juries, have refused to construct a new court house.

The losses are reported to have been as follows:

Bros.	\$14,000
Hotel	6,000
E. E. Quick	6,000
M. C. Gray	4,500
W. H. Dolan	4,500
Mrs. Florence Godfrey	2,900
Dr. Ross	2,000
John McKie	1,500
D. A. Richardson	1,000
W. H. Powell	600
Lope Bros.	500
Captain Good	500
Jacob George	500
Cruiser Saloon	250
Total	\$43,850

CHEAP RAPID TRANSIT.

Pneumatic Tube Proposed Between Chicago and Milwaukee.

Chicago, Sept. 14.—A pneumatic tube 18 inches in diameter between Chicago and Milwaukee that will transport packages and mail between the two cities in 40 minutes—at the rate of more than two miles a minute—and give a lightning express service to all the towns along the route is proposed by a concern which has installed pneumatic tube systems in some of the largest Chicago business houses.

The cost of the line is placed at \$5,000,000. As the distance is about 84.5 miles, this is at the rate of \$62,500 per mile. Expenses of maintenance and operation will be so small, it is asserted, that the company can afford to carry freight at less than the price now charged by any common carrier.

By the vacuum system used by the company, the air in the tubes is partly exhausted in front of the carriers instead of being forced at high pressure back of the carriers, as in other pneumatic systems. An arrangement of pumps, valves and levers makes it possible to divide the line into short sections, each operated independently so that distance, according to the company, practically cuts no figure as regards practicability of operation.

WILL TEACH FIRST AID.

Chicago Society to Teach Care of Injured.

Chicago, Sept. 14.—To check the growth of the casualty list, resulting from the rush of modern industrial life, the First Aid Society of Chicago has been organized to instruct workers how to deal with injuries in emergencies. Free classes for the employees of commercial and industrial establishments will be conducted. It is not the aim to produce amateur doctors and surgeons, but to impart such instruction that when an accident occurs the victim may be intelligently handled and life preserved until the arrival of a doctor. Several prominent physicians are at the head of the medical board of the society.

CONFISCATE CONTRABAND CARGO

Prize Court Releases Vessel Sailing From Puget Sound.

Vladivostok, Sept. 13.—(Delayed.)—The prize court has decided to release the British steamer Calchas (captured while bound from Puget sound ports to Japan by the Vladivostok squadron) and also the neutral portions of the vessel's cargo. That part of the cargo consigned to Japan consisting of flour, cotton and timber is confiscated.

The Calchas will be detained three months in order to allow its owners time for an appeal from the prize court's decision.

The Russian naval representative before the court protested against the release of the vessel.

ROBBERS IN TIGHT BOX.

Canadian Pacific Bandits May Soon Be Captured.

Bellingham, Sept. 14.—Canadian Pacific and Dominion Express Company detectives, with the aid of the American authorities, are believed to have surrounded one or more of the robbers who held up the train near Mission Saturday night.

The men are believed to be hiding in a deserted cabin near Lynden, 12 miles east of here, where they were seen Sunday. A farmer near there fed three men who answer the description of the bandits. About 25 men are beating down the country south of the Fraser river and are expected to reach the robbers' retreat in a few hours.

GENERAL ORLOFF BLAMED BY GENERAL KUROPATKIN FOR LIAO YANG DISASTER

His Failure to Hold Yentai Said to Have Been Responsible for Turning Potential Victory Into Defeat.

Russian Army Reported to Have Been Concentrated at Mukden, From Which It Is Inferred That It Is Prepared to Make Another Stand—Entire Force Will Winter at Mukden—Both Armies Inactive.

The inactivity of the opposing armies of Japan and Russia continues. No fighting of a general character is reported. Information from an authoritative source at St. Petersburg is that the Russians will winter at Harbin, but the fact that there will be probably two months of good weather before the extreme cold weather sets in leaves room for a revision of purpose. The Japanese are reported to be collecting taxes and administering the affairs of Manchuria, as if it were conquered territory. The publication of Kuropatkin's report of the battle of Liao Yang has created better feeling at St. Petersburg. The report distinctly places on General Orloff responsibility for the failure to hold the heights of Sykwantun and so check the Japanese advance.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 14.—General Kuropatkin's report, given out tonight, comes as considerable relief, setting at rest the alarmist stories of the loss of guns and the death or capture of prominent commanders. The report entirely bears out the declaration of the Associated Press that General Orloff's failure to hold Yentai was responsible for the breaking down of Kuropatkin's plans, and turned potential victory into defeat.

The report given out does not state the casualties, but the Associated Press is reliably informed that they were under 17,000.

The war office is extremely reticent regarding the present situation and future plans. It is said in general terms that the army has concentrated at Mukden, leaving the inference that it is ready to make another stand. There have been no rains the past two days and it is probable the country will now dry up, leaving two months for a fall campaign, but the Associated Press is informed on high authority that preparations are being pushed for wintering the army at Harbin.

STORY OF RUSSIAN DISASTER.

Kuropatkin's Belated Report Finally Reaches St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 14.—The long expected report from General Kuropatkin has been received. It is dated September 11, and includes the operations since August 26. The account begins with the situation of the troops at Pettsu and An Ping. Llandlandsan and An Shan. At An Shan and An Ping the Russians repulsed the attack, but the Japanese turning movement at Pettsu threatened the line of retreat along the Tan river. This compelled the withdrawal of the advanced positions to Liao Yang, which was accomplished without loss of guns or baggage except to the column from Llandlandsan. The country here suffered more severely from rains and it was impossible to save the guns of one battery, although every effort was made to drag them through the mud. So long did General Rutkovsky remain in this effort that the forces lost heavily and he was wounded. After having concentrated at Liao Yang on August 30-31, the Japanese renewed the attack but were repulsed.

The turning movement by Kuroki was observed on the right bank of the Taitze river. Kuropatkin repulsed this advance and forced Kuroki back. It was planned to outflank the Japanese by using Sykwantun as the pivot point. This plan was frustrated by the capture of Sykwantun by the Japanese. The importance of this point necessitated its being retaken, which was not accomplished until the night of September 2. It was impossible to hold the place and the troops retired westward. In this movement General Orloff was injured, as was General Fomin, who has since died. The Japanese positions were then extended northward, occupying the entire range of hills and the Yentai mines, an extremely strong position. It was then that Kuropatkin decided to retreat to Mukden. This was commenced September 4. The report concludes with an account of the destruction of a bridge across the Taitze, rearguard engagements and the final arrival at Mukden.

RED CROSS FIRED UPON.

Russians Charge Japanese With Inexcusable Conduct.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 14.—The emperor has received the following dispatch from General Stoessel, commander of the Russian military forces at Port Arthur, dated August 28:

"I am happy to report to your majesty that at 3 o'clock in the morning of August 27, during a violent rain and thunder storm, the Japanese again attempted to capture our left flank positions near No. 1 fort and Udan Mountain. Their attack was everywhere repulsed. Our losses were small—three men killed and two officers and 98 men wounded. The wounded were brought in and are being carefully attended."

"A number of Japanese corpses would have been picked up by us, but the enemy prevented us from so doing by opening fire on men who had been sent out under the Red Cross flag."

Another dispatch from General Stoessel to the emperor, dated September 2, says:

"On the night of September 1, the enemy attacked Visokaya and Dlinnaya Mountains and the neighboring fortifications, opening simultaneously an artillery fire on the forts and mountains. The leading files of the enemy, with the Japanese columns leading them, were discovered in good time, and our batteries opened on them. The leading files finally encountered some automatic mines and many of the enemy were blown into the air. The attack was repulsed in an hour. Our losses were inconsiderable—one officer and seven men wounded."

DISREGARD RED CROSS.

Japanese Accused by Russians of Bad Faith in Use of Emblem.

Chefoo, Sept. 14.—A communication has been received by the Russian consul here from General Balashoff, chief of the Red Cross at Port Arthur, requesting that the same be made public. The general charges the Japanese with gross violation of the Red Cross. He says on Japanese dead have been found notes, written in Russian, requesting that their bodies be buried, but when Russian burial parties attempted to fulfill these requests they were fired on. Such instances, General Balashoff adds, are numerous, and the Russians are now afraid to trust to the Red Cross flag. He states that the Japanese also protect movements of their troops by the unlawful use of the Red Cross flag.

The Russians at Chefoo are endeavoring to purchase a wireless telegraph outfit at Manila, presumably to replace

the one here, which has been useless for some time.

PORT ARTHUR'S FLIGHT.

Provisions and Ammunition Reported to Be Extremely Low.

Paris, Sept. 14.—The Journal's St. Petersburg correspondent says: "A high personage informs me the emperor has received a report from General Stoessel to the effect that the situation at Port Arthur is critical. For a week there has been no meat and only a small quantity of flour. The ammunition is not sufficient for long resistance. Everything is prepared for blowing up the fortifications in the event of a successful assault."

ALEXIEFF IS RELIEVED.

Kuropatkin Said to Have Succeeded Him as Head of Army.

Paris, Sept. 14.—The correspondent at St. Petersburg of Echo de Paris says he learns authoritatively that Alexieff has asked to be relieved of the functions of commander in chief, but not those of viceroy. His object is to avoid reports of antagonism between himself and Kuropatkin. The correspondent says the emperor granted the request and that Kuropatkin is solely responsible for military operations.

DAUNTLESS FILES LIBEL.

Tug Answered the Bark's Call for Assistance.

San Francisco, Sept. 14.—A libel suit has been commenced in the United States district court against the bark Big Bonanza to recover \$5000 for salvage services rendered by the tug Dauntless. The complaint states that on September 11, the bark was in a dangerous position half a mile off the beach of Point Reyes. She sent a call for assistance and was answered by the Dauntless. The cargo of salmon was valued at \$120,000 and the vessel at \$120,000.

KOREAN REBELS FEARED.

Tonghaks Threaten Uprising Against Government.

New York, Sept. 14.—A Russian force which left Hamhung Saturday has arrived at Pukcheng and Hoowen, says a Herald dispatch from Gensen, Korea. News from the north is to the effect that anxiety is felt over a threatened uprising of the Tonghaks, a Korean rebel society.

Big Rally at Saratoga.

Saratoga, Sept. 14.—A torrential rain did not prevent a good attendance at the republican party's semi-centennial tonight. Chairman Seward introduced Senator Fairbanks as "the next vice-president of the United States." The candidate received an ovation when he arose to speak. Fairbanks was followed by Major Francis B. Fremont. Senator Depew and Murat Halstead also spoke.

GAIN OF THE DEMOCRATS.

Maine Returns Give Them 11,244 More Votes Than in 1900.

Portland, Me., Sept. 14.—A republican plurality of 27,320 is shown by complete returns of the state election. The total vote for governor was: Cobb, republican, 78,460; Davis, democrat, 51,330. The figures show a republican gain of 4990 over 1900 and a democratic gain of 11,244, or a net democratic gain of 6254.

Parker Goes to New York.

Esopus, Sept. 14.—Judge Parker started for New York tonight. Tomorrow he expects to meet political friends. No plans have been announced for his visit to democratic headquarters, nor arrangements for a reception of any kind.

Misguided Anarchist.

New York, Sept. 14.—A bomb was exploded last night at the gate of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, says a Herald dispatch from Barcelona. Great destruction is reported to have resulted, but the correspondent adds no particulars.

Dan Patch Will Recover.

Topeka, Sept. 14.—Veterinary surgeons announce that Dan Patch, the famous pacer, has a good chance to recover. He will not run for several months.

Syracuse, N. Y., Sept. 14.—The plant of the Central Iron Works was partly destroyed by fire early today. Loss \$55,000.

OPPONENTS ARE UNABLE TO WIN OUT

Ticket Selected by Followers of Frank W. Higgins Will Be Nominated by Saratoga Convention.

Friends of Woodruff Declare That Fight Will Not Be Won Without Struggle.

PARKER MAY TAKE PLATFORM

If So, Will Respond to Questions Propounded in President Roosevelt's Acceptance Letter.

Saratoga, Sept. 14.—Tonight there is every reason to believe the ticket chosen by the Higgins supporters will be nominated. It is in part:

Governor—Frank W. Higgins.
Lieutenant governor—M. Linn Bruce.
Secretary of state—John F. Obrien.
Attorney general—Julius M. Meyer.

Although there is no assurance that this ticket can be nominated without a roll call, it is rumored tonight a settlement may be reached and the unanimous nomination of Higgins accomplished on the first ballot.

Neither side is willing to yield the slightest point of advantage to the other. The friends of Woodruff insist there are no grounds for hoping that any means likely to be adopted can avoid an open conflict on the floor of the convention tomorrow. Today's session of the convention was insignificant so far as the Higgins-Woodruff future is concerned, involving only preliminary organization. There was no test of strength of the two sides.

PARKER MAY TAKE STUMP.

Reported That He Will Reply to President's Questions.

Chicago, Sept. 14.—Judge Parker may go on the platform within the next six weeks and respond to the questions asked by President Roosevelt in his letter of acceptance, according to National Committeeman J. G. Johnson of Kansas. Johnson also declared Gorman to have charge of the campaign, supporting Taggart and Sheehan.

"Headquarters will be opened in the west," Johnson said, "and that is what Taggart is coming to Chicago for next week."

The purpose of the committee is to wage a fight in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Washington, California and the states of the middle west.

PEABODY IS RENOMINATED.

Colorado Republicans Name Ticket and Declare Principles.

Denver, Sept. 14.—The state republican electoral convention met today and nominated a full state and congressional ticket. Governor James H. Peabody, incumbent, was renominated. For presidential electors David H. Moffat of Denver, Percy S. Ryder of Delores, Philip B. Stewart of El Paso, Simon Guggenheim of Denver and John C. Osgood of Garfield were nominated. The platform endorses the national platform; the administration of Peabody is endorsed and his efforts to "re-buke the spirit of lawlessness, which would turn popular government into irresponsible despotism and treason."

The platform pledges the candidates to restrain excesses, whether practiced by capital or by labor. The eight-hour law is favored.

ANTI-MORMON PARTY ORGANIZED

Men of All Political Beliefs Join the New American Party.

Salt Lake, Sept. 14.—Permanent organization of the American party, whose avowed purpose is to oppose the alleged interference of the Mormon church in politics, was effected tonight. The meeting was attended by men of all political beliefs. A mass meeting will be called to nominate a member of congress and a complete state ticket. No nominations will be made for presidential electors.